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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES, BROAD-RANGE PRIMERS, AND METHODS IN WHICH THEY ARE USED

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to nucleic acid probes and to broad-range primers that are useful in the identification of bacte-  
rial species and the diagnosis of bacterial infections. Es-pecially, the invention relates to specific nucleic acid probes that originate from  
hyper-variable regions situated near the conserved sequences of the gene for RNA poly-merase beta subunit, *rpoB* (DNA directed  
RNA poly-merase subunit B) of infection-causing bacteria. The in-vention also relates to broad-range primers originating from the  
conserved regions of *rpoB* genes. In addition, the invention relates to the use of these nucleic acid probes and broad-range primers  
in the diagnosis of bacterial in-fections as well as to diagnostic methods in which these nucleic acid probes and broad-range primers  
are used.

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